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OBEY GETS AN UPDATE ON NEW PROGRAMS AT MID-STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

STEVENS POINT, WI – Seventh District Congressman Dave Obey (D-WI) was in Wisconsin Rapids today to get a briefing on how Mid-State Technical College is using the \$428,000 in federal funds that Obey secured in the fiscal year 2009 budget for two new training programs.

Programs for Renewable Energy Specialists and Energy Conservation Specialists will begin in the fall of this year. The federal funding will support the costs of instruction, program development and purchase of new equipment.

“I’m glad to see the emphasis that Mid-State Technical College is placing on training for jobs in renewable energy and energy conservation,” said Obey. “Dealing with our energy and environmental problems does not mean losing jobs. We can create thousands of good paying jobs where they are needed in Wisconsin while protecting our environment.”

Over the past eighteen months, Mid-State Technical College has invested more than \$300,000 to develop three new degree programs. In the fall of 2008, the college began offering associate degree programs for the following positions:

- Renewable Thermal Energy Technician;
- Renewable Electricity Technician;
- Bio-refinery Technology Technician;

The expected salaries for program graduates range from around \$33,000-\$43,000 per year.

“These jobs can’t be outsourced and are good paying jobs with an exciting future. We need more training for technicians, who can design, build, install, operate and maintain renewable energy systems.” Obey also noted that these comprehensive associate degree-level programs are the first of their kind in Wisconsin and in the Midwest.

Mid-State Technical College plans to aggressively expand their training programs in “green” fields of training. The college has campuses in Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield and Stevens Point serving all or portions of Adams, Clark, Jackson, Juneau, Marathon, Portage, Waushara and Wood Counties.

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